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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

RE: Residency of John R. Spon

For about 30 years, I have monitored taxpayer accountability issues within Richland County and so people sometimes bring them to my attention. I was told that John R. Spon probably did not live at 1568 Apt. 4-A Lexington Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio, contrary to his candidacy petition. It was alleged that after he married on March 12, 2012, he had shifted his actual domicile to his wife's address south of the Village of Lexington on Cedarwood Drive. As you may know, a person can have many residences, only one domicile. A domicile is a permanent home to which a person intends to return. Because some people were saying that 1568 Apt. 4-A was more of a mail-drop than a domicile, I decided to investigate the matter. I enlisted the assistance of Michael Woogerd. This letter summarizes both his and my investigation so I have asked him to sign below.

#### **CONCLUSION**

My conclusion is that John R. Spon's apartment at 1568 Apt. 4-A Lexington Avenue in the City of Mansfield has been his domicile for more than a year. The rest of this letter will state some of the facts which led me to this conclusion. I am giving a copy of this letter to John Spon and to an official in the Richland County Democratic Party because it would be unfair for rumors of non-residency to persist in light of the facts we uncovered.

#### **SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION**

1568 Lexington Avenue is an apartment complex with more than 40 units. Michael Woogerd and I went there on Sunday afternoon, January 18, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. to interview people who resided there. We began by knocking on the door of John Spon. This was a surprise visit, he did not know I was going to do this. John opened the door, let us in, and then talked freely with us stating, "Good, I welcome this, I'm an open book, ask me any questions, I will cooperate. It is a lie,

an absolute lie, to suggest that I do not live here. I welcome a thorough investigation and I'm sure if you know the facts it will put the rumor to rest". At my request, John willingly opened every closet door, the refrigerator door, and showed us around all his apartment. We saw numerous concrete signs of his residing there as his domicile.

Most of the rest of the investigation was done by Michael Woogerd, who was in frequent contact with me. He called on several residents of the apartment complex. Many of them were accustomed to seeing John Spon's car in the parking lot overnight. Very few of them were willing to give a signed statement mainly out of fear of getting involved in something that might be problematic for themselves personally.

Those residents and employees of the apartment complex who were willing to sign statements or talk to my investigator, stated specific facts such as:

"John's black SUV is here about 90% of the time when I am here in the mornings and evenings."

"There has been no time when I have not seen John on a regular basis on the property."

"John's wife stays here with him often."

"John interacts with other tenants on a regular basis."

"When I am here, I see his vehicle about 85%-90% of the time."

I could list additional facts based upon my interview with John Spon demonstrating that Apartment 4-A is his domicile, however, the excessive recitation of personal facts about his home life feels like a needless invasion of his privacy.

I have sued or threatened to sue numerous public officials over taxpayer accountability issues over the past 30 years. If I felt there was proof that John Spon was living outside the City of Mansfield, I would have brought such an action against him. (See attached example of a previous claim I brought involving domicile of an elected official.) Any law suit alleging that John R. Spon is not domiciled in the City of Mansfield would be frivolous. It is not as if there is a lack of proof of non-residency; to the contrary, there is overwhelming proof of his actual domicile within the City of Mansfield.

I understand there will be a contested election for the Law Director of the City of Mansfield. I have signed Dave Remy's petition. I will not say how I will vote at the election, but I can say that there is no legitimate question about either candidate residing in the City of Mansfield.

Sincerely,



Eric S. Miller

I have reviewed the above letter of Eric S. Miller and it correctly summarizes the results of my investigation.

Michael Woogerd

Cc: John Spon  
Matt Finfeld

